

# HOME STUDY COURSE

## THE JUDGMENT

### THE FINAL JUDGMENT

#### *The Second Coming of Jesus*

The Bible is about Jesus. It is the story of God sending His Son to be the Savior of the world (1 John 4:14).

From the first promise of redemption in Genesis 3:15 to the final promise of His return in Revelation 22:20, the Bible tells the story of Jesus the Savior. Every major section of the Bible focuses on Jesus. <sup>1</sup>The promise given to Abraham that all nations of the earth would be blessed through his seed is fulfilled in Jesus, his descendent (Genesis 22:18; Galatians 3:8, 16). <sup>2</sup>The Law of Moses was temporary, a “schoolmaster” or “tutor” to bring those people to Christ (Galatians 3:24-25). <sup>3</sup>The New Testament is the “grace and truth” given by Jesus through the Apostles (John 1:17; Ephesians 3:2-5).

The Savior has been born; He has lived and died for our sins. Now we await His return, His “second coming,” for the final judgment of mankind (John 5:22-30).



The Bible tells us the story of Jesus.

1. What is the Bible mainly about, what is it's theme? \_\_\_\_\_
2. When does the Bible begin talking about Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What part of the Bible focuses on Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the purpose of Jesus' second coming? \_\_\_\_\_

### WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD

When man was created, he was given all the riches of the Garden of Eden. It was a paradise with abundance to fill his every desire. Yet, God had stipulations that had to be obeyed. He explicitly told man He would hold him accountable to them and there would be punishment for disobedience (Genesis 1:27-31; 2:8-17).

Likewise, we are plainly told that “we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:10) where “every one of us shall give account of himself to God” (Romans 14:10, 12). Just as in the Garden of Eden, there are legal

#### *In This Lesson:*

The Final Judgment	1
We Are Accountable to God	1, 2
The Basis of Judgment	2
That Day and Hour	2, 3
Heaven, Eternal Reward	3
Hell, Eternal Punishment	4
Will I Be Ready Then?	4

#### **THE JUDGMENT:**

- Jesus will return as a “thief in the night” (2 Peter 3:10)
- A shout, a trumpet blast will signal Judgment Day (1 Thessalonians 4:16)
- “All that are in the graves” will rise to be judged by Him (John 5:28-29)
- All will stand before Jesus’ Great White Throne (Revelation 20:11-13)

requirements bound upon us by God. As in the garden, we are likewise expected to do what God has told us to do, and not to do anything He has forbidden (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22).

Mankind was created by God and "for" Him (Colossians 1:16). We must understand that our very existence was "for Him." Moreover, then, we were created to do His will, i.e. what He chooses, what He desires, not to simply fulfill our own. As those in Revelation 4:10-11, we should cast our crowns before the throne and willingly acknowledge we are created to fulfill His will. Else we are merely seen (as the rest of the world) as disobedient children, following the same course and in the same spirit (of Satan), fulfilling our own desires, and incurring the same wrath (Ephesians 2:1-3).



1. *Has man always been given commands to obey by God?* \_\_\_\_\_
2. *Has man always been subject to judgment based on God's requirements?* \_\_\_\_\_
3. *What is signified by casting our crown before the Lord's throne?* \_\_\_\_\_

## THE BASIS OF JUDGMENT



We were created to be servants of our Lord. While that is certainly not the only description God would give His people (e.g. disciple, child, brother, sister, etc.), "servant" is the most common. The rewards for serving God faithfully are indescribable; but, we are indeed expected to responsibly and faithfully serve Him.

Jesus will raise and address two distinct groups on Judgment Day (Matthew 25:31-33). To each one on His right hand, Jesus will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant," indicating the individual has been responsible and done what he or she was supposed to do (cf. Matthew 25:21, 23). Yet, to one on the left, Jesus will say, "Wicked and slothful (lazy) servant" (:26), indicating that individual has not.

God has certain criteria whereupon He bases our judgment. It is rendered to every individual "according to his deeds" without any "respect of persons" (Romans 2:6, 11; 1 Peter 1:17). First, it is based on what is stipulated in "The Books" (of the Bible), and whether one has been faithful as a servant to do those things (Proverbs 24:12; Matthew 16:27; Revelation 20:12; 22:12-14). God also judges according to what is in "the heart and reins" of an individual, i.e. "what's on the inside" (Psalm 7:8-9; 26:1-3; 2 Chronicles 6:30; Jeremiah 17:9-10; Revelation 2:23). Finally, judgment depends on whether one's name is written in "The Book of Life," which Jesus will open on Judgment Day (Revelation 20:12). At every point in one's life, God knows that person's fate. Therefore, that one's name is either in or not in this Book. His ultimate fate depends on his name being there (cf. Exodus 32:32-33; Philippians 4:3; Revelation 21:27).

1. *Give the most common descriptive term for God's people?* \_\_\_\_\_
2. *On what basis will Jesus judge who is to be saved and who is to be lost?* \_\_\_\_\_
3. *Can one's name be removed from the Book of Life after it is written there?* \_\_\_\_\_

## THAT DAY AND HOUR

There is a certain "day and hour" that has been determined for the return of Jesus (Acts 17:31). No one knows when it is "but the Father only" (Matthew 24:36; Mark 13:32).

Jesus warned us to “take heed, watch and pray; for, you know not when the time is” (Mark 13:33). There are not “signs” pointing to the final return of Jesus - no way for us to figure it out, no events to show us the last couple of years, few months or weeks, or that a timetable has begun (all such prophesied dates have come and gone through the centuries). Jesus will come suddenly, without notice, as a “thief in the night” and there was no need to write of the “times and seasons” of it (1 Thessalonians 5:1-2).

Jesus said His return will be “as the days of Noah” (Matthew 24:36-38), indicating the suddenness. As in those days, people will be engaged in everyday activities (Matthew 24:37-44; Mark 13:33-36). Judgment always catches man so (cf. Luke 17:26-29). In various parts of the world people will be sleeping, working, eating, getting married, conducting business, etc. and then the trumpet will sound...

We simply must be ready for His return (Matthew 24:42-25:13; Luke 12:34-40; 1 Thessalonians 5:4-10). For, that day and hour will unexpectedly begin “with a shout, with the voice of the archangel,” and “the last trumpet will sound” (1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:52). Then, “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye” all “the dead shall be raised” and “changed” (1 Corinthians 15:52). “The dead in Christ shall rise first,” and “then we who are alive” will “be caught up together [raptured] with them...to meet the Lord in the air” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). “All that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth” - “those who have done good, unto the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, unto the resurrection of condemnation” (John 5:28-29). There we will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ to give account.



1. Has the very “day and hour” the world will end been determined? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Can we know when it will come? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How is Jesus’ Second Coming described in Scripture? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Does Judgment normally surprise people? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

## HEAVEN, ETERNAL REWARD

No doubt, the joys of Heaven are indescribable; and, that may be why they are “described” as they are! Jesus said, “Your reward is great in Heaven” (Luke 6:23). Yet, we might genuinely question, What will it be like? Will it be so wonderful?

While there is much we are not told about the eternal reward that awaits us, the promises that are made indeed point to a very wonderful place. Christians are promised an “inheritance” that is “reserved” for them (1 Peter 1:4). Usually referred to as a “mansion,” it is in fact a “place to stay” (John 14:2-3). We are often forced to be separated from those we love on this earth - by various circumstances of life, including the death of a loved one - but that will never be the case in Heaven!

Heaven is variously described as a place of splendor - of jewels, gold, etc. - and where, once again, there will be access to the “tree of life” (Revelation 22:2, 14). One of the wonderful blessings of Heaven will be that it is completely devoid of sin (21:8, 27). When we think of all the devastation of sin in our lives, how truly wonderful to be somewhere without it!

The greatest reward, however, is that we will finally “know the Lord,” for “we shall see Him as He is” (1 John 3:2). We will literally be united with Him, never to be separated from Him again (Revelation 21-22; 1 Thessalonians 4:17).

1. Does the Bible really describe Heaven? \_\_\_\_\_ What does It say about it? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What do you consider the most wonderful thing we are told about Heaven? \_\_\_\_\_

## HELL, ETERNAL PUNISHMENT

It is unimaginable to think of the horror that will be expressed on the faces of those who have just been sentenced to an eternity in hell. It is a reality none of us wants to experience. Hell is variously described in the Bible as a place of fire (Matthew 13:42, 50; 2 Thessalonians 1:8; Revelation 21:8); of darkness (Matthew 25:30; Jude 13); torment (Revelation 20:10); anguish, distress (Romans 2:9); a place of weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 13:42, 50; 25:30); a place devoid of the presence of the Lord (Matthew 7:23; 2 Thessalonians 1:9); of utter destruction (Matthew 7:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:3); as tribulation, indignation and wrath (Romans 2:5, 8-9); as the second death (Revelation 20:6, 14); and, it is eternal, everlasting, never-ending (Matthew 25:46; Jude 7; Revelation 20:10). To face the reality of such a place on Judgment Day, knowing there is no escape, will truly be the worst moment of a person's existence - and, it will never end.

1. How does the Bible describe Hell? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Personally, what do you consider the worst description of Hell? \_\_\_\_\_

### WILL I BE READY THEN?

One day the trumpet will sound and there will be a great shout of the Archangel announcing the return of the Son of God, coming in all His glory (1 Thessalonians 4:16; Matthew 25:31). Gathered before Him will be all of humanity, together with all of the angels, to be judged by Him. Jesus will sit upon His "Great White Throne of Glory." The Books (of the Bible) will be opened to judge the deeds of every person according to the things written in them; and the Lamb's Book of Life will be opened to see whose name is found written there (Revelation 20:11-15; 21:27).

Jesus will separate the "sheep from the goats," the good from the bad, those to be saved from those who will not (Matthew 25:32-46). To "the good and faithful servant" He will say, "Come, you blessed of My Father" (:21, 23, 34). These will "go into life eternal" (Matthew 25:46) where they will forever be with their Lord in Heaven (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

To the "wicked and slothful servant" (Matthew 25:26), and to "those who do not know God and those who do not obey the Gospel of our Lord Jesus" (2 Thessalonians 1:8), He will say, "Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41). These will "go away into everlasting punishment" (:46) where they will forever be separated "from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power" (2 Thessalonians 1:9).

For many "Judgment Day" will be the most gloriously happy day beyond their imagination! For many more, it will be the most devastating... As the old hymn says, "Will you be ready then?"

**Do you have a question about anything in this lesson that you wish to discuss with someone? Please feel free to contact us and someone will be glad to assist you.**

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